



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$87,000 DOJ GRANT FOR NICKERSON COMMUNITY CENTER**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a grant in the amount of \$87,287 to the Nickerson Community Center of Providence. The funding is being made available through the FY 2003 Drug-Free Communities Support Program in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The non-profit social service agency, located in the Olneyville section of Providence, has been the fiscal agent for the Providence Weed & Seed coalition, which has been active in an effort to develop comprehensive and effective strategies to decrease substance abuse and crime in the neighborhood since 1999, targeting the Southeast Asian population.

To achieve the goals of reducing substance abuse among youth and strengthening community antidrug coalitions, this coalition will implement the following strategies: 1) raising awareness about problems Southeast Asian Americans face with substance abuse and access to health care services; 2) acknowledging diversity, including the conflicts and shared values and attitudes of the many cultures included in this area; 3) talking with the community about substance abuse among Asian families, including holding meetings to discuss practical solutions; 4) helping the Southeast Asian community cope with the English language and American culture since these life stresses can be a precursor to abusing alcohol and other drugs; 5) helping community members understand the links between substance abuse and threats to the community, family, and individual well-being, such as violence, teen pregnancy, school failure, and unemployment; and 6) providing good role models to help youth find ways to resolve their problems without resorting to substance abuse and or violence. The Providence Police Department's Gang Unit will also offer prevention and intervention workshops to supplement the curriculum.